

What is claimed is:

1. A method for monitoring activity, comprising:  
monitoring a sensor activated by an individual;  
recording activation of the sensor;  
determining a behavior routine of the individual based on recorded activations of the sensor;  
analyzing the recorded sensor activations to determine a behavior routine;  
and  
identifying a change in the behavior routine based on the analysis of the recorded sensor activations.
2. The method of claim 1, further including initiating contact to a third party.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein initiating contact to a third party includes initiating contact with a third party on a hierarchical list of third party contacts.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein initiating contact with a third party on a hierarchical list includes selecting a third party based on the level of change in the behavior routine.
5. The method of claim 1, further including initiating automated contact with a third party on a hierarchical list of third party contacts.
6. The method of claim 1, further including grouping sensors within particular classes of daily activities.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein identifying a change in the at least one behavior includes comparing activations of a group of sensors within a class to a threshold.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further includes providing a sensor with a level of priority.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein identifying a change in the behavior routine includes weighting sensor activations differently based upon the sensor's level of priority.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein analyzing the recorded sensor activations to determine a behavior routine includes using a pattern recognition algorithm.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein using a pattern recognition algorithm includes using an algorithm based on a Bayesian decision theory.
12. A method for monitoring the behavior of an individual, comprising:
  - recording data counts from sensors activated by an individual during a time period;
  - identifying statistical changes in the data counts relative to expected data counts during the time period; and
  - initiating automated contact to a third party on a hierarchical third party list identified by the individual when a statistical change exceeds a statistical threshold value.
13. The method of claim 12, further including:
  - associating the data count with an activity of daily living; and
  - placing the data counts into groups based on activities of daily living.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein initiating automated contact to a third party on a hierarchical third party list includes analyzing the data counts in a group for a statistical change that exceeds the statistical threshold value.

15. The method of claim 12, further including setting the time period to a value of one (1) hour or greater.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein initiating automated contact to a third party on a hierarchical third party list includes identifying at least two statistical based changes that exceed the statistical threshold value.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein recording data counts from a sensor includes recording data counts from a sensor with Boolean logic.

18. The method of claim 12, further including self-diagnosing an operational condition of a monitoring system based on the recorded data counts.

19. The method of claim 18, further including diagnosing an operational condition of a sensor in the monitoring system.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein identifying statistical changes in the data counts includes:

developing an expected count for the activity of daily living over the time period; and

initiating automated contact to a third party on the hierarchical third party list when the recorded counts are statistically less than the expected count for the activity of daily living over the time period.

21. The method of claim 12, wherein initiating automated contact to a third party on a hierarchical third party list includes prompting the individual to confirm that automated contact to the third party should be made.

22. A computer readable medium having a program to cause a device to perform a method, comprising:

sensing data counts associated with an activity of daily living for an individual;

determining a statistical change in the data counts relative to expected data counts for the activity of daily living;

identifying when the statistical change in the data counts relative expected data counts exceed a statistical threshold value;

selecting a third party on a hierarchical third party list based on the activity of daily living for which the statistical change in the data counts relative expected data counts exceed the statistical threshold value; and

initiating automated contact to the third party on the hierarchical third party list when the statistical based change exceeds the statistical threshold value.

23. The method of claim 22, further including adjusting the expected data counts of an activity of daily living based upon the statistical change in the data counts for the activity of daily living.

24. The method of claim 22, further including providing a predetermined amount of information about the individual and the activity of daily living to the third party on the hierarchical third party list.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the initiating automated contact to a third party on a hierarchical third party list further includes prompting the individual to confirm that automated contact to the third party should be made.

26. The method of claim 22, further including placing the third party contacts in tiers of third party contacts wherein at least one tier includes multiple third party contacts.

27. The method of claim 22, further including:  
requesting automated contact to the third party on the hierarchical third party list by the individual; and

initiating the automated contact to the third party on the hierarchical third party list at the request of the individual.

28. The method of claim 22, further including identifying a sensor that is not transmitting data counts based on the statistical change in the data counts of the sensor relative to expected data counts for the sensor.

29. The method of claim 28, further including adjusting the expected data counts for the sensor based upon the statistical change in the data counts.

30. A system to monitoring activity, comprising:  
means for signaling that a sensor has been activated by an individual during activities of daily living;  
a receiver to receive signals, indicating that the sensor has been activated;  
a tabulation unit to tabulate the number of received signals;  
an analysis unit to analyze the tabulated signals to determine a behavior routine and identify changes in the behavior routine; and  
a contacting unit to initiate contact with a third party when the analysis unit identifies a change in the behavior routine.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein means for signaling includes a sensor worn by the individual.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the sensor worn by the individual is a sensor that is actuated when the sensor is located within a range that includes a dwelling and a portion of land on which the dwelling is situated.

33. The system of claim 30, wherein means for signaling includes digital sensors.

34. The system of claim 30, wherein the means for signaling includes analog sensors.
35. The system of claim 34, wherein the analog sensors produce a Boolean output.
36. A device for monitoring activity, comprising:  
a receiver to receive activation signals from a sensor activated by an individual during activities of daily living;  
a processing unit to tabulate the received signals; and  
a contacting unit to initiate contact with a third party when directed by the processing unit.
37. The device of claim 36, wherein the device is a self contained, stand-alone device.
38. The device of claim 37, wherein the device includes an additional functionality selected from: a radio, a clock radio, an alarm clock, a telephone, and an answering machine.